



Nebraska State Accountability

**Grade 4
Reading
Mini-Test**

Name:

Directions:

On the following page is a passage and multiple-choice questions for Grade 4 Reading Mini-Test, a practice opportunity for the *Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA)*.

Each question will ask you to select an answer from among four choices.

For all questions:

- Read the passage. Then answer each question carefully by choosing the best answer.
- Mark your answers for ALL of the questions.

Remember only one of the choices provided is the correct answer.

Making Paper

Have you ever wondered where paper comes from? Paper has been around for a very long time. It was first made in China from tree fibers and cloth scraps. Most paper today is made in factories from trees grown for that purpose.

You can make homemade paper by recycling used scraps of paper. It is easy to do, and it is a project you can do with a friend. You can use your homemade paper for writing letters or for a scrapbook. Just follow the instructions below.

YOU WILL NEED

- An old window screen
- Used pieces of paper (used envelopes and writing paper are best)
- Measuring cup
- Bucket
- Small or medium mixing bowl
- Food blender (hand or electric)
- Water
- Plastic tub or dishpan
- Sponge
- Small towels
- Food coloring (if you wish)

MAKING THE PAPER

1. Tear the used pieces of paper into small scraps and collect enough to make about two cups of scraps. (It is best to use paper that was used for writing. Newsprint and magazine pages do not work as well.) Soak the scraps in a bucket of water for several hours or overnight.
2. Put a small amount of the soaked paper into a small or medium mixing bowl and then add more small amounts of soaked paper a little at a time. Ask an adult to “mash” the paper with a hand mixer or a food blender. The mashed paper (**pulp**) should have the texture of mush or oatmeal. After mashing, transfer each batch of the pulp to a plastic dish tub about half full of water. When all of the paper is in the tub, mix it thoroughly with your hands.*
3. Set the window screen over a bathtub or a large kitchen sink. Spread the wet paper pulp, one handful at a time, on the screen, allowing the water to drip into the tub or sink. Try to spread the pulp as evenly as possible so that it is all the same thickness.

READING SESSION 1

4. When the water has finished dripping, flip the screen over onto several layers of small towels. Use a sponge or more small towels to soak up any excess water. Carefully remove the screen. (You may have to peel the pulp from the screen if it doesn't fall away on its own.)
5. Place more small towels on top of the sheet of pulp. Press on the towels, soaking up as much remaining water from the pulp as possible.
6. Carefully lift the pulp from the towels and place it between fresh towels.
7. Let the paper dry overnight. (You may dry it in a microwave oven for one to four minutes. If you do this, ask an adult to help you.)
8. When your paper is dry, cut it into sheets of any size you like.

Enjoy your new paper!

*You may ask an adult to help you add food coloring at this step in making your paper.

HELPFUL HINT

Use a kitchen strainer to scoop leftover paper pulp out of the water in the tub. Put this leftover pulp into the garbage, not down the drain. Water left in the tub can go down the drain or into the garden.

1. In Step #1, how long do you need to soak the scraps?
 - A. until they are dry
 - B. a few minutes
 - C. several hours
 - D. two days
2. Why are small towels or sponges needed?
 - A. to soak up excess water
 - B. to lift pulp from the screen
 - C. to dry your hands
 - D. to apply the food coloring

READING SESSION 1

3. In step #2, what is the meaning of the word **pulp**?

- A. part of a fruit
- B. wet newspaper
- C. mushy oatmeal
- D. mashed paper

4. Where was paper first made?

- A. United States
- B. Mexico
- C. China
- D. Canada

5. Which of these words has a suffix?

- A. bathtub
- B. electric
- C. thickness
- D. excess

READING SESSION 1

6. In step #2, what is the meaning of the following symbol *?
- A. The information here is important.
 - B. More information is given later.
 - C. Repeat this step in the process.
 - D. This step can be skipped.
7. Why did the author give the helpful hint at the end?
- A. The pulp will be a brighter color.
 - B. The paper will dry faster.
 - C. The hint will help to save time.
 - D. The pulp could clog the drain.

Grade 4 Mini-Test Answers

1. C. several hours
2. A. to soak up excess water
3. D. mashed paper
4. C. China
5. C. thickness
6. B. More information is given later.
7. D. The pulp could clog the drain.